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FYI.

http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_28925451/navajo-seek-epa-claims-assurances-colorado-mine-spills

By Jesse Paul The Denver Post

Monday, Oct. 5, 2015 - 7:21 p.m.

Roy Etcitty looks out over the San Juan River on Aug. 15, 2015. (*Brent Lewis, Denver Post file*)

The Navajo Nation's attorney general has formally requested that the Environmental Protection Agency "assure full and fair satisfaction of all claims, known and unknown" in the wake of the Gold King Mine spill.

"The process that the (EPA) has set up to resolve claims appears to jeopardize the rights of the Navajo People," Ethel Branch, the attorney general, said in a statement. "This puts our people in a precarious position because they need immediate recovery from known damages."

Branch specifically requested that the EPA provide assurances of ongoing compensation on a rolling basis, the tribe says. She also asked the EPA to confirm that accepting recovery funds does not negate the possibility of filing future, "not yet known" claims, the tribe says.

The request comes after Navajo leaders on Friday announced they have asked the federal government for a preliminary damage assessment in the wake of the Aug. 5 [mine spill near Silverton](#).

Navajo President Russell Begaye on Thursday sent a letter to the Federal Emergency Management Agency seeking the estimation.

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FEMA last month rejected a Navajo request for the appointment of a disaster-recovery coordinator to direct the federal government's response to the crisis, according to the tribe

The EPA-caused disaster in southwest Colorado sent 3 million gallons of contaminants into the Animas River and flowing through the southwest. Navajo leaders say the aftermath of the spill left their people on the brink of economic disaster and threatened their culture.

"We need to assure our people, who are concerned for their futures, that their injuries will not go ignored," Branch said in a statement.

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